

County of Moore
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AFTER SIX MONTHS, FEW COMPLAINTS ABOUT SMOKE-FREE RESTAURANTS AND BARS LAW

The recently posted report by the North Carolina Department of Public Health at www.smokefree.nc.gov shows the number of complaints filed by citizens across the state against businesses that may not be in compliance with the new Smoke-Free Restaurants and Bars Law. For June, the sixth month since the law went into effect, there were 39 complaints made involving 32 businesses across the state. Compare that with January, when there were 537 complaints involving 318 businesses, and you can see that most restaurants and bars are working with their local health departments to come into compliance with the law.

Tobacco use contributes to the cause of premature death in North Carolina. Public health programs and policies exist to promote and protect the health of all.

North Carolina is the first state in the historic "tobacco belt" to make restaurants and bars smoke-free. The new law protects the health of North Carolinians and visitors to the state by removing tobacco smoke from nearly all restaurants and bars.

Under the law, local health departments are the enforcement agency. The Environmental Health Division of the Moore County Health Department has been working to educate business owners and the public about the law.

According to Terry McNeill, Director of the Environmental Health Division, Moore County has had only 10 smoking complaints in the first six months since the law went into effect. "Moore County has 379 establishments that fall under the no smoking law," McNeill said. "We follow up on all complaints

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<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

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with smoke-free information, an educational letter and a first warning letter. No fines have been imposed to date."

The law is complaint-driven, meaning that the health department investigates complaints filed by telephone or online by individuals. The numbers of complaints being filed across the state have fallen dramatically since January.

To learn more about the smoke-free restaurants and bars law, or to report a possible violation, visit www.smokefree.nc.gov or call the N.C. CARE-LINE at 1-800-662-7030 (TTY 1-877-452-2514) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m., seven days a week. CARE-LINE services are available in over 150 languages. After hours, you may leave a message and your call will be returned.

For help quitting tobacco, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

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